



# Floating Marsh Creation Demonstration (LA-05)

## Project Status

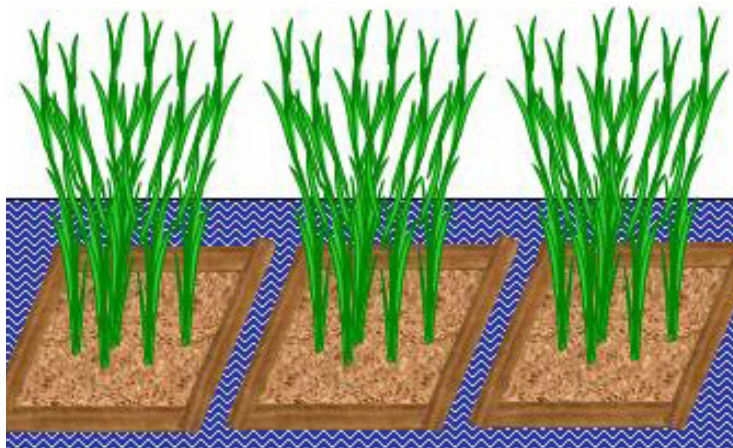
**Approved Date:** 2003      **Cost:** \$1.1 million  
**Project Area:** N/A      **Status:** Engineering and Design  
**Net Benefit After 20 Years:** N/A  
**Project Type:** Demonstration: Marsh Creation

## Location

This project may be located anywhere within the fresh and intermediate marshes of the Barataria or Terrebonne Basins.

## Problems

Tens of thousands of acres of marsh within the fresh and intermediate zones of the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins converted to open water between 1968 and 1990. Large areas of fresh and intermediate open water exist in marsh interiors presenting opportunities for reestablishment within those basins. These types of open water areas are not well-suited for typical projects such as sediment diversions, beneficial use of dredge material, or dedicated dredging because they are generally located long distances from natural sediment sources, frequently dredged navigation channels, or other water bodies with bottom substrates containing material suitable for marsh creation. Additionally, the substrate under these large areas of fresh and intermediate open water is often fluid organic matter which would not support the weight of added sediment.



This illustration shows an example of one of several possible designs that will be tested for this project.

## Restoration Strategy

In this demonstration project, managers will develop and test unique and previously untested technologies for creating floating marsh for potential use in fresh and intermediate zones. Buoyant vegetated mats or artificial islands will be developed and tested in a controlled environment during the first year of the project. The mats will then be deployed into open water or abandoned canals during the second year. Various combinations of plant species, planting methods, and substrates will be tested to determine the best technique for producing the mats. The goal of this project is to provide technology that is transferable to other, larger projects.

## Progress to Date

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force approved funding for this demonstration project at their January 2003 meeting. Project development is underway.

This project is on Priority Project List 12.

For more project information, please contact:



**Federal Sponsor:**  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Alexandria, LA  
 (318) 473-7756



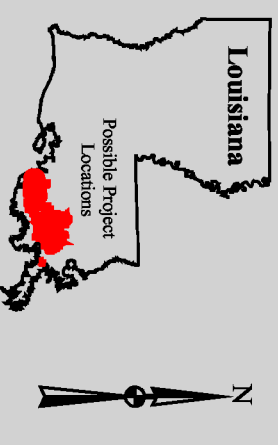
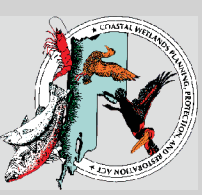
**Local Sponsor:**  
 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
 Baton Rouge, LA  
 (225) 342-7308



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 Possible Project  
Locations

 **USGS**  
science for a changing world



Map Produced By:  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey  
National Wetlands Research Center  
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:  
2002 Thematic Mapper MS Pan Fusion

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